



**California Department of
Pesticide Regulation**

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

about

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

IPM Innovator Awards

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has given out more than 70 IPM Innovator awards to honor California organizations that emphasize pest prevention, favor least-hazardous pest control, and share their successful strategies with others. The awards provide rare public recognition to groups and individuals who are quietly revolutionizing pest management through their efforts to reduce risks associated with pesticide use.

IPM — integrated pest management — works with nature to encourage beneficial plants and animals while making it difficult for pests to survive.

DPR's IPM Innovator awards are part of a comprehensive, reduced-risk pest management strategy aimed at homes, schools, farms, and the environment.

Demonstrating Leadership

In 1994, DPR presented its first IPM Innovator awards to acknowledge agricultural and urban organizations demonstrating leadership and creativity in new methods of pest management. DPR hosts an annual event where the Innovators are recognized.

DPR developed the program to recognize pioneering pest control managers for their leadership in voluntarily implementing reduced-risk pest management systems and for their work in sharing those solutions with others.

An IPM Innovator typically has a history of using pest management systems to reduce the risks posed by the use of traditional control practices, showing that their pest management concept is economically viable, and documenting and sharing that system so others can learn and apply the information to their situation.

Relying on a Systems Approach

IPM Innovators typically rely on pest management systems based on sound scientific principles of integrated pest management, including a preference for using beneficial organisms and cultural practices for pest control when feasible. Pest problems are addressed as part of the overall situation, rather than pest by pest or at only one time of the year.

IPM Innovators often conduct research to find new ways for managing pests. This may include a range of activities from contracted research with academic institutions to on-site trials of participant-identified techniques.

The organizational structure of the IPM Innovator may be very formal, such as a commodity advisory board, a resource conservation district, or a school district, or it may be less formal, such as a community organization that promotes reduced-risk pest management. Many successful IPM Innovators also have representatives from federal, state, or

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local government, academia, and the business community as advisors to or as members of their organization.

In addition, many IPM Innovators have a well-developed organization — and an educational component responsible for coordinating and working with participants to encourage the sharing of ideas and information. Many Innovators provide training and educational programs for participants. Their outreach programs identify potential new participants and encourage them to join the system. In fact, several of these IPM Innovators have gone on to receive funds from DPR's Pest Management Alliance Grants Program, which allows them to further increase sharing of ideas and information.

Early each year, DPR solicits nominations for exceptional achievers in pest management. DPR uses several guidelines to identify IPM Innovators. The guidelines and information about nominating a group can be found by going to DPR's Web site, www.cdpr.ca.gov, and clicking the

"Grants & Awards" button. There you will also find year-by-year listings of award recipients and a short description of each group.

To find out more about the IPM Innovators Program or DPR's other pest management programs, you can also contact:

IPM Innovators Program
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IPM INNOVATORS TYPICALLY HAVE:

- **An approach to pest management based on preferential use of beneficial organisms and other scientific principles of IPM that reduce risk.**
- **An organizational structure that allows for research and the continued development of new ideas.**
- **Education and outreach that encourages the sharing of ideas and information.**
- **An administrative organization that unifies and supports the collective efforts of participants and provides opportunities to expand the number of participants.**

